

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A system for processing configuration data of a communication network, comprising:
 - a first calculation module, including,
 - an extraction module that generates usage profiles for each of a plurality of service level agreements (SLAs), and
 - an aggregation module that receives and aggregates said usage profiles for each of said SLAs and accordingly determines a network usage predictive state comprising an SLA usage profile to be used for prediction from first data representative of usage of resources and/or services within said network; and
 - a second calculation module, adapted to determine a network evolution planning proposal, which defines each item of a plant to be modified or replaced, its precise location, and a favorable time to modify or replace said plant, from said usage predictive state and second data representative of a said plant (~~R_i, ER_j~~) of said network,

wherein said first calculation module is adapted to determine said usage profiles of said service level agreements between an operator of the network and customers from said first data and from said service level agreements.
2. (previously presented): A system according to claim 1, wherein said first calculation module is adapted to determine said network usage predictive state from

complementary third data representative of user requirement prediction information, wherein said complementary third data comprises market research.

3. (previously presented): A system according to claim 1, wherein said first calculation module is adapted to determine a service level agreement usage profile for each service level agreement.

4. (previously presented): A system according to claim 1, wherein said first calculation module is adapted to determine a service level agreement usage predictive profile constituting said network usage predictive state from said service level agreement usage profiles.

5. (currently amended): A system according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said first calculation module is adapted to determine a service level agreement usage predictive profile comparing said network usage predictive state from said service level agreement usage profiles; and wherein said service level agreement usage predictive profile is determined from said third data and said service level agreement usage profiles.

6. (previously presented): A system according to claim 1, wherein said first data is chosen from a group comprising the current usage of resources and/or services of the network and at least a portion of the record of usage of the resources and/or services of said network.

7. (previously presented): A system according to claim 5, wherein said first calculation module is adapted to determine said service level agreement usage profiles by trend evolution analysis.

8. (previously presented): A system according to claim 1, wherein said third data is chosen in a group comprising future types of service level agreements and future evolution of service subscriptions.

9. (currently amended): A system according to claim 1, wherein said second calculation module includes a traffic engineering module adapted to determine an optimum configuration of the network from said second data describing the plant (~~R_i, E_{Rj}~~) of said network and a usage predictive state and a predictive state validation module that supplies adapted i) to supply said traffic engineering module with said network usage predictive state delivered by said first calculation module, ~~and ii) on~~upon receiving an optimum configuration associated with said predictive state from said traffic engineering module, to determine~~determines~~ whether said network can support said optimum configuration ~~or not and then, and when it said optimum configuration cannot be supported, to determine~~determines a network plant that is inadequate for future resource and/or service requirements, by an evolution of the network corresponding to said network usage predictive state.

10. (previously presented): A system according to claim 9, wherein said second calculation module includes a planning determination module connected to a planning database and adapted to determine said planning proposal from a designation of the network plant that can be disturbed, and said planning data from said database.

11. (previously presented): A system according to claim 10, wherein said planning determination module is adapted to deliver said planning proposal that minimizes costs of network modification.

12. (previously presented): A system according to claim 10, wherein said planning data takes the form of planning rules.

13. (previously presented): A system according to claim 10, wherein said planning determination module is adapted, before delivering said planning proposal, to supply said traffic engineering module so that they determine a new optimum configuration corresponding to said

network evolution planning proposal and said validation module is adapted, on receiving a new optimum configuration associated with said planning proposal, to determine whether said network, as defined by said planning proposal, can support said new optimum configuration or not and then, when it can, to send to said planning determination module an authorization to deliver said planning proposal and, if it cannot, to determine the network plant that is inadequate for future resource and/or service requirements, by said planning proposal and to send to said planning determination module the designation of said disturbed plant for them to determine a new planning proposal.

14. (previously presented): A system according to claim 1, further comprising a graphical user interface that permits an operator input a definition of complementary third data representative of user requirement prediction information and generates a display of each planning proposal, wherein said complementary third data comprises market research.

15. (currently amended): A system according to claim 13, further comprising a graphical user interface adapted to enable the definition of said third data by an operator and the display of each planning proposal, wherein said graphic user interface ~~(5)~~ is adapted to enable an operator to monitor the validation of planning proposals.

16. (previously presented): A system for managing a communication network, comprising a processing system according to claim 1.

17. (currently amended): A method of processing communication network configuration data, comprising:

i) generating usage profiles for each of a plurality of service level agreements (SLAs), and receiving and aggregating said usage profiles for each of said SLAs so as to determine a

network usage predictive state from first data representative of the usage of resources and/or services within said network and

ii) determining a network evolution planning proposal, which defines each item of a plant to be modified or replaced, its precise location, and a favorable time to modify or replace said plant, from said usage predictive state and second data representative of a plant (R_i , ER_j) of said network, wherein said usage profiles of said service level agreements between an operator of the network and customers are determined from said first data and said service level agreements.

18. (previously presented): A method according to claim 17, wherein said network usage predictive state is determined from complementary third data representative of user requirement prediction information.

19. (currently amended): The system according to claim 1, further comprising a management system, wherein said network is chosen from at least one of Internet (IP), MPLS/GMPLS, ATM and Frame Relay networks.